

Proverbs 25 - Wisdom for Relationships, Leadership, and Self-Control

I. The Value of Searching Out Wisdom — Proverbs 25:1–3

1. Proverbs preserved and compiled — v. 1: These are Solomon's proverbs copied by Hezekiah's men. God preserves wisdom for future generations.

2. The glory of God and kings — v. 2: "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter."

3. The limits of human understanding — v. 3: Heaven is high. Earth is deep. The heart of kings is difficult to search. *Wisdom recognizes both the value of investigation and the limits of human knowledge.

II. Purifying Leadership — Proverbs 25:4–5

1. Remove the impurities — v. 4: "Take away the dross from silver..."

2. Remove wickedness from leadership — v. 5: A king's throne is established through righteousness. *Good leadership requires removing corruption and surrounding authority with righteous counsel.

III. Humility Before Honor — Proverbs 25:6–7

1. Don't promote yourself — v. 6: Do not seek a place of honor.

2. Let others recognize you — v. 7: Better to be invited upward than to be publicly humbled. *Humility allows honor to come at the right time and in the right way.

IV. Think Before You Act or Speak — Proverbs 25:8–10

1. Don't rush into conflict — v. 8: Don't act on incomplete information.

2. Deal directly with disagreements — v. 9: Speak with your neighbor rather than exposing private matters.

3. Protect your reputation — v. 10: Thoughtless exposure of others can bring shame. *Wisdom knows when to speak, what to say, and what should remain private.

V. The Power of Well-Chosen Words — Proverbs 25:11–15

1. A timely word — v. 11: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

2. Wise correction — v. 12: A wise rebuke can be valuable to a receptive person.

3. Faithfulness — v. 13: A trustworthy messenger refreshes those who sent him.

4. False promises — v. 14: Boasting without delivering is like clouds without rain.

5. Patience and gentle speech — v. 15: Patience can persuade. A soft tongue can break resistance. ***Words have tremendous power when they are timely, truthful, wise, and gracious.**

VI. The Wisdom of Self-Control — Proverbs 25:16–17

1. Even good things require moderation — v. 16: Too much honey becomes harmful.

2. Even good relationships require boundaries — v. 17: Don't wear out your welcome.

***Wisdom knows when enough is enough.**

VII. The Destructive Power of False Testimony — Proverbs 25:18–20

1. A false witness is dangerous — v. 18. Lies can wound like weapons.

2. Don't depend on an unfaithful person — v. 19. Unreliable people are like broken teeth or an unsteady foot.

3. Know when words are inappropriate — v. 20: Singing to someone in sorrow can be deeply insensitive. ***Wisdom considers the truth, trustworthiness, and timing** of our actions and words.

VIII. Responding to Enemies with Good — Proverbs 25:21–22: “If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.” **(Rom.12:20)**
Meet genuine needs. Refuse to repay evil with evil. God ultimately deals with the injustice.

IX. The Consequences of Gossip and Strife — Proverbs 25:23–24

1. Gossip produces conflict — v. 23 A whispering tongue creates anger and division.

2. Better to live humbly than in constant conflict — v. 24 Peace is more valuable than luxury without harmony. ***What we say about people can either preserve relationships or destroy them.**

X. The Refreshment of Good News — Proverbs 25:25–26

1. Good news brings life — v. 25 “Like cold water to a weary soul...”

2. Righteousness must not collapse — v. 26: When righteous people compromise, society suffers. ***Good news refreshes, while unfaithfulness weakens others.**

XI. Knowing Your Limits — Proverbs 25:27–28

1. Don't overindulge — v. 27: Even good things can become harmful in excess.

2. Control your spirit — v. 28: “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.” ***Self-control is spiritual protection.**